ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ablation instruments and methods for ablating tissue, and more particularly for treating atrial fibrillation utilizing RF energy are provided. The ablation instrument generally includes two components: a first member adapted to be placed on or adjacent to a first tissue surface, and a second member opposed to the first member and adapted to be placed on or adjacent to a second, opposed tissue surface. Each member includes a conductive element disposed on a portion thereof that is effective to communicate with a source of ablative energy. First and second conductor elements can be provided for transmitting ablative energy from an energy source to the first and second conductive elements. In use, ablative radiation is transmitted between the first and second members through the intervening tissue to form a lesion in the tissue.